

Docket No. RSW920030263US1

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An apparatus for maintaining compatibility between  
2 nodes within a distributed systems management  
3 environment, comprising:
  - 4 a primary node, said primary node including a  
5 primary storage area, said primary storage area including  
6 at least two primary storage sections; and  
7 a plurality of secondary nodes, each secondary node  
8 of said plurality of secondary nodes configured with a  
9 plurality of configuration settings having a first  
10 format, and each secondary node of said plurality of  
11 secondary nodes including a secondary storage area,  
12 wherein said primary node is operable to:
    - 13 read said plurality of configuration settings having  
14 said first format from a first primary storage section of  
15 said at least two primary storage sections;
    - 16 transform said plurality of configuration settings  
17 having said first format to a plurality of configuration  
18 settings having a second format;
    - 19 write said plurality of configuration settings  
20 having said second format to a second primary storage  
21 section of said at least two primary storage sections;
    - 22 and
    - 23 convey said plurality of configuration settings  
24 having said second format from said second primary  
25 storage section to each said secondary storage area of  
26 said plurality of secondary nodes; and wherein each said

Docket No. RSW920030263US1

27 secondary node of said plurality of secondary nodes is  
28 operable to:

29 receive said plurality of configuration settings  
30 having said second format; and  
31 reconfigure in accordance with said plurality of  
32 configuration settings having said second format.

1 2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said primary node  
2 comprises a master node, and said plurality of secondary  
3 nodes comprises a plurality of slave nodes.

1 3. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said distributed  
2 systems management environment comprises a WebSphere  
3 environment.

1 4. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said primary  
2 storage area comprises a master repository, and said  
3 secondary storage area comprises a node repository.

1 5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said convey  
2 operation comprises a synch out operation.

1 6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said first format  
2 comprises a WebSphere version 5.x format, and said second  
3 format comprises a WebSphere 6.x format.

1 7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said plurality of  
2 configuration settings having said first format comprises  
3 at least one 5.x XSL schema document, and said plurality

Docket No. RSW920030263US1

4 of configuration settings having said second format  
5 comprises at least one 6.x XSL schema document.

1 8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said primary node  
2 and said plurality of secondary nodes comprise a  
3 plurality of data processing units.

1 9. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said primary node  
2 and said plurality of secondary nodes comprise a  
3 plurality of servers.

1 10. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said primary node  
2 and said plurality of secondary nodes comprise a cell.

1 11. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said distributed  
2 systems management environment comprises a WebSphere  
3 Application Server.

1 12. A method for maintaining compatibility between a  
2 primary node and a plurality of secondary nodes within a  
3 distributed systems management environment, comprising  
4 the steps of:  
5 reading a plurality of configuration settings having  
6 a first format from a first storage area of said primary  
7 node;  
8 transforming said plurality of configuration  
9 settings having said first format to a plurality of  
10 configuration settings having a second format;

Docket No. RSW920030263US1

11 writing said plurality of configuration settings  
12 having said second format to a second storage area of  
13 said primary node;

14 conveying said plurality of configuration settings  
15 having said second format from said second storage area  
16 to each secondary node of said plurality of secondary  
17 nodes;

18 at least one of said each secondary node receiving  
19 said plurality of configuration settings having said  
20 second format; and

21 said at least one of said each secondary node  
22 reconfiguring in accordance with said plurality of  
23 configuration settings having said second format.

1 13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said primary node  
2 comprises a master node, and said plurality of secondary  
3 nodes comprises a plurality of slave nodes.

1 14. The method of Claim 12, wherein said distributed  
2 systems management environment comprises a WebSphere  
3 environment.

1 15. The method of Claim 12, wherein said first and  
2 second storage areas comprise a master repository.

1 16. The method of Claim 12, wherein the conveying step  
2 comprises a synching out operation.

Docket No. RSW920030263US1

1 17. The method of Claim 12, wherein said first format  
2 comprises a WebSphere version 5.x format, and said second  
3 format comprises a WebSphere 6.x format.

1 18. The method of Claim 12, wherein said plurality of  
2 configuration settings having said first format comprises  
3 at least one 5.x XSL schema document, and said plurality  
4 of configuration settings having said second format  
5 comprises at least one 6.x XSL schema document.

1 19. The method of Claim 12, wherein said primary node  
2 and said plurality of secondary nodes comprise a  
3 plurality of servers.

1 20. A computer program product in a computer readable  
2 medium for maintaining compatibility between a primary  
3 node and a plurality of secondary nodes within a  
4 distributed systems management environment, the computer  
5 program product comprising:  
6 first instructions for reading a plurality of  
7 configuration settings having a first format from a first  
8 storage area of said primary node;  
9 second instructions for transforming said plurality  
10 of configuration settings having said first format to a  
11 plurality of configuration settings having a second  
12 format;  
13 third instructions for writing said plurality of  
14 configuration settings having said second format to a  
15 second storage area of said primary node;

Docket No. RSW920030263US1

16           fourth instructions for conveying said plurality of  
17 configuration settings having said second format from  
18 said second storage area to each secondary node of said  
19 plurality of secondary nodes;  
20           fifth instructions for receiving said plurality of  
21 configuration settings having said second format; and  
22           sixth instructions for reconfiguring in accordance  
23 with said plurality of configuration settings having said  
24 second format.